

TASK ONE (7 X 1 mark = 7 marks)

Read the following text and insert the missing paragraphs into the most appropriate gap in the text. Each paragraph can only be used ONCE. There is 1 extra paragraph you will not need to use. Paragraph 0 is an example.

MARK

WESTMINSTER WHISTLEBLOWER: 'MPs DO BULLY THEIR FEMALE STAFF – I SHOULD KNOW'

It's not been a great month for Tory MPs.

0

A

Elliott Johnson apparently killed himself in September after alleging he'd been bullied by 'Tatler Tory' Mark Clarke, who organised away-days for youngsters in the lead up to May's general election.

1

The allegations (which Clarke has denied and Ms Allan is yet to address personally) come 20 months after Parliament launched a confidential phone line for Westminster staff to report allegations of bullying by MPs.

2

From my own experience, Parliament is ill-equipped to support its MPs and their staff through the demands political life places on them. Far from turning out intelligent, emotionally capable politicians who can make decisions on Britain's place in the world, it haemorrhages talent. There is no HR department and nowhere to turn for truly confidential support. While some MPs manage to achieve a work/life balance, others find the pressure of Westminster extremely tough. The competing demands placed upon MPs by their party, their constituents and family are considerable. For women it is twice as hard. Parliament casts its women into maternal roles from the start, leaving female researchers to flatter and encourage their MPs through the day job.

3

How bad is it really getting? During my time in Westminster I knew five politicians who considered throwing in the towel. I know MPs who have taken to their beds and refused to come into the office, despite threatening phone calls from the Whips Office. And staff are left to pick up the pieces.

4

Other MPs behave in far more damaging ways. There are plenty whose temper gets the better of them. I have witnessed a researcher being told repeatedly to 'f*** off' when raising a legitimate concern. Others have confided in me about being shouted at when things get too much. The real scandal? That all this is regarded as 'normal'. One staffer tried to complain to his boss about a male MP who kept hitting on him. He was told not to worry, as 'he does it to everyone'.

5

And to make things worse, an MP's staff find themselves in an awkward employment situation. They are paid by Parliament but directly employed by their members. So any HR is internal to that MP's office.

6

So what can staff do? Some Parliamentary staffers just take the abuse, over and over. Others quit.

Parliament needs to take better care of its staff – both those who are elected and those who serve them. Until MPs' stress is dealt with properly, they'll keep taking it out on their staff and perpetuating

the culture of aggression. And any allegations made by staffers need to be taken seriously and acted upon.

7

Our political system must recognise, support, and encourage women’s talent if we are to successfully navigate any of the challenges we face as a nation.

Finally, if we want women to be part of the British political future, Parliament needs to stop casting them simply as mothers. We need them to be leaders, too.

(Adapted from) © The Telegraph, 2015

- A** *First, the party found itself embroiled in a bullying scandal following the death of a young activist in its youth wing.*
- B** However, if we are serious about encouraging more women into politics, as we should be, Parliament must start to look after its MPs and their female staff in a time when things are getting even tougher.
- C** Just an example, one friend staffer was left to stand in for her boss during a busy Friday constituency, using breaks between meetings to try and coax her reluctant MP out of bed, like a mother would a child who does not want to get up for school. Her efforts were met only with the MP’s defiant refusals.
- D** In the first six months after it started working, it received a mere 31 complaints. But, as these recent allegations indicate, the real number of people who experience bullying or harassment is likely much, much higher. And as a former Parliamentary researcher, I should know.
- E** Now, Conservative MP for Telford, Lucy Allan, is facing allegations of bullying after young researchers on her staff claimed they had been subjected to “vicious” abuse.
- F** Such behaviour should not be tolerated; yet, it has been normalised thanks to an environment in which the desire for political advancement is given priority and a lack of structure makes accountability impossible.
- G** That is the kind of behaviour we should try to encourage and foster if we really mean to overcome the barriers that prevent women from being successful in politics. The majority of staffers are willing to fall on their knees in the hopes of kick-starting their own career.
- H** That means that for most staffers there is no neutral, independent, or individual process to which researchers can appeal when their employer steps out of line. He, or she, is that process.
- I** Through inaction, we risk losing the very talent we increasingly need, thus securing the future of the male supermajority.

GAP	<i>0</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PARAGRAPH	A							
	✓							

soluciones

TASK 1: WESTMINSTER WHISTLEBLOWER: 'MPS DO BULLY THEIR FEMALE STAFF, I SHOULD KNOW'

GAP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PARAGRAPH	E	D	B	C	F	H	I

LBA